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Human Rights Council
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Agenda item 3

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 2 July 2015

29/10. Human rights and the regulation of civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, other international human rights law instruments and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 and decision 5/101 of 18 June 2007, 16/21 of 25 March 2011 and 26/16 of 26 June 2014,

Recalling in particular that the Human Rights Council has the mandate to, inter alia, serve as a forum for dialogue on thematic issues on all human rights,

Recalling that States bear the primary responsibility under international law to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to life and security of person, and that such responsibility may include, as appropriate, enacting and enforcing relevant national legislation,

Reaffirming that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized,

Alarmed that hundreds of thousands of human beings of all ages around the world, including women and children, continue to have their human rights, in particular their right to life and security of person, negatively affected by the misuse, intentional or unintentional, of firearms, and that a significant number of such killings of women have occurred as a result of inter-partner violence,

Acknowledging that an effective national regulation of civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms may enhance the protection of the right to life and security of person and thus contribute positively to reducing the number of victims of the misuse of firearms,

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Acknowledging also the efforts made by different States at various levels, including at the regional and subregional levels, to ensure that the civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms in their respective societies are effectively regulated,

1. *Reiterates its deep concern* at the fact that hundreds of thousands of human beings of all ages around the world, including women and children, have lost their lives or suffered injuries and psychological harm by the misuse of firearms by civilians, thus having their human rights, in particular their right to life and security of person, negatively affected;

2. *Calls once more upon* all States to do their utmost to take appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures, consistent with international human rights law and their constitutional frameworks, in order to ensure that the civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms are effectively regulated with the aim of enhancing the protection of human rights, in particular the right to life and security of person, of all;

3. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to present to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-second session a report on the different ways in which civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms have been effectively regulated, with a view to assessing the contribution of such regulation to the protection of human rights, in particular the right to life and security of person, and to identify best practices that may guide States to further develop relevant national regulation if they so deem it necessary;

4. *Invites* all relevant special procedures, commissions of inquiry and human rights treaty bodies to continue to bear in mind the present resolution within the framework of their respective mandates.

43rd meeting
2 July 2015

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 41 to 0, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

Abstaining:

France, Japan, Republic of Korea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America